

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KIGALI 00185 241548Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-07 DODE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

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R 241248Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4580

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KIGALI 185

KINSHASA ALSO FOR DATT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, RW, CG

SUBJECT: DEFENSE ATTACHE VISIT

REF: (A) STATE 029957, (B) KINSHASA 1162, (C) KIGALI 114

1. COMMANDANT RUSATIRA (CHEF DE CABINET AT DEFMIN) TOLD ME THIS MORNING GOR WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO RECEIVE DATT/KINSHASA DURING LAST WEEK IN MARCH, "ON ROUTINE VISIT WITHIN CONTEXT OF HIS ATTRIBUTES AS ATTACHE ACCREDITED TO KIGALI." RUSATIRA REITERATED THAT IT REMAINED GOR HOPE TO HAVE U.S. ATTACHE PERMANENTLY STATIONED IN KIGALI, BUT VIEWED VISIT FROM KINSHASA AS NEXT BEST THING.

2. RUSATIRA AND I DISCUSSED WHAT WE MEANT BY "INFORMAL VISIT" AND WHAT SORT OF PROGRAM MIGHT BE PLANNED. RUSATIRA DANCED A BIT AROUND THIS QUESTION, SINCE HE CONSIDERED THAT A SPECIAL PROGRAM MIGHT IMPLY THAT DATT WAS NOT RPT NOT ACCREDITED BUT WAS RATHER A SPECIAL GUEST OF SOME SORT. HE SAID HE PREFERRED DATT DEVELOP HIS OWN PROGRAM BASED ON "ROUTINE" CONTACTS NORMALLY CARRIED OUT BY ACCREDITED ATTACHE. NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID HE PERSONALLY LOOKED FORWARD TO
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RECEIVING DATT AND THOUGHT THAT A CALL ON DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF MAJOR SERUBUGA MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE.

3. I TOOK OCCASION TO REITERATE TO RUSATIRA MY GROWING BELIEF THAT THERE WAS SCANT POSSIBILITY OF U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO RWANDA. I BROUGHT TO HIS ATTENTION NUMEROUS RECENT STATEMENTS BY PRESIDENT CARTER AND SECRETARY VANCE EMPHASIZING

U.S. DESIRE TO REDUCE CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS AND ACHIEVE ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENTS, ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECT TO THIRD WORLD. MOMENT WAS HARDLY OPPORTUNE, I REMARKED, TO SEEK SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR RWANDA.

4. RUSATIRA RESPONDED THAT EVEN U.S. WAS CONCERNED AT MAINTAINING STRONG NATIONAL DEFENSE IN FACE OF SOVIET MILITARY BUILDUP. IN ITS OWN MODEST WAY, RWANDA WANTED TO DO NO MORE THAN THIS -- IT NEEDED NOT BOMBS AND MISSILES BUT MERELY SMALL ARMS TO ENSURE ITS OWN TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. AS ONE WHO HAD PERSONALLY VISITED PRC AND NORTH KOREA, HE BELIEVED U.S. WAS MISTAKEN IN THINKING COMMUNIST COUNTRIES WOULD ABIDE BY ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENTS, ESPECIALLY IN AREAS LIKE EAST AFRICA WHERE THEY HOPED TO WIN STRATEGIC INFLUENCE.

5. I MADE A FINAL EFFORT TO ASSURE RUSATIRA THAT USG BELIEVED IT BETTER TO SEEK AGREEMENT ON ARMS LIMITATION THAN TO FUEL ARMS RACES IN AFRICA.
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